

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

~~provided with~~

an internal conical ring (9);

an external conical ring (8);

semi-through side slots (8D) spread out regularly with respect to one another inside said external conical ring (8); and

a flange having a rigid housing (7) with a cylindrical axial passage (7A) ~~to coaxially accommodate a set of~~ accommodating said internal conical ring (9) and said external conical ring (8),

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through their relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft (2), and to define an annular space (10) between the an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage (7A) and the an outer surface of said external conical ring (8),

~~this~~ said annular space (10) making it possible to engage an end (2A) of said hollow shaft (2),

with ~~outer~~ said external conical ring (8) being ~~more~~ elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end (2A) of said hollow shaft (2) in said annular space (10) during ~~the~~ an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring (9) and said external conical ring (8)

~~-conical rings characterized in that inside said external conical ring (8) there are semi-through side slots (8D) spread out regularly with respect to one another.~~

2. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, the semi-through side slots (8D) terminate alternatively in ~~one~~ a first end (8E) or the other and a second end (8F) of ~~the~~ transversal faces of said external conical ring (8), and all slots of the external conical ring terminate in one of the first end and the second end of the transversal faces of said external conical ring.

3. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that it also includes a rotating link (14) between said rigid housing (7) and said internal conical ring (9).

4. (currently amended) A device according to claim 3, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ said rotating

link (14) is made of cooperating teeth (9G, 7F) arranged respectively on ~~the~~ an outer perimeter of said internal conical ring (9) and on ~~the~~ an inner perimeter of said cylindrical axial ~~the internal~~ passage of said rigid housing (7).

5. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 3, characterized in that said rotating link (14) comprises a plate (16) secured to the transversal faces of said internal ring (9) and said housing (7), opposite said shaft.

6. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ said annular space (10) is ~~blind~~ closed on one end and open on another end, and extends ~~more or less~~ over the entire length of said external conical ring (8).

7. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ said conical external ring (8) has an annular external shoulder (8G) forming ~~the~~ a bottom of said annular space (10) and against which is applied to abut ~~the~~ a transversal face of ~~the tubular~~ said end (2A) of said shaft.

8. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ said cylindrical axial passage (7A) (10) of said housing (7) terminates by an internal annular shoulder (7D) against which ~~the~~ said external annular ring bears.

9. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, ~~characterized in that said an~~ inside conical surface (8C) and an outside conical surface (9A) ~~conical combined surfaces,~~ respectively of said external conical ring (8) and said internal conical ring (9) are cone-shaped with an apex on the opposite end to said shaft.

10. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ said ~~inside~~ internal conical ring (9) extends on the end opposite to said shaft in a threaded cylindrical part (9C) opening from said cylindrical axial passage (7A) (10) of ~~the~~ said rigid housing and includes a clamping device (11) screwed onto ~~the~~ said threaded cylindrical part (9C) ~~threading of said inner ring (9)~~ and is applied against said rigid housing (7) to pull said internal conical ring and cause ~~the~~ a spreading apart of said ~~outer~~ external conical ring.

11. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, ~~characterized in that the~~ an inner surface (9E) of said ~~inner~~ internal conical ring ~~[[,]]~~ flares linearly through to its transversal face (9F) turned towards said shaft so that ~~the~~ a transversal section of said internal conical ring decreases gradually.

12. (currently amended) A device according to claim 2, further comprising ~~characterized in that it also includes~~ a rotating link (14) between said rigid housing (7) and said internal conical ring (9).